

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 245

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS FAMILY SUPPORT ACT; AMENDING TITLE 39, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 68, TITLE 39, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A SHORT TITLE, TO STATE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR RULEMAKING AUTHORITY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS FAMILY SUPPORT FUND.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Title 39, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chapter 68, Title 39, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

CHAPTER 68

PARENTS AS TEACHERS FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

39-6801. SHORT TITLE. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Parents as Teachers Family Support Act."

39-6802. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers;

(b) The ability of parents to enhance their children's development and ability to enter school ready to succeed can be significantly improved through parent education and family support;

(c) Early identification of developmental and health problems in young children can significantly increase the chance of addressing these issues in a timely manner; and

(d) Early childhood home visitation leads to positive outcomes for children and eligible families, including increased school readiness, sustained school success, improved child health and development, positive parenting practices and reduction in child maltreatment.

(2) The intent of the legislature is for the program to implement the parents as teachers program created by the parents as teachers national center.

39-6803. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Developmental and health screening" means the process of gathering information by formal screening instruments and informal observation methods to assess a child's abilities, strengths and weaknesses in all areas of development. The results can be used to identify which children might benefit from further evaluation and intervention or treatment of areas of concern and to help parents and other primary caregivers understand their child's developmental needs.

(2) "Eligible family" means a parent or other primary caregiver with one (1) or more children in utero or up to the age of kindergarten entry as provided for in section 33-201, Idaho Code. Services under the provisions of this chapter are available for all families, regardless of the number of children in the family.

(3) "Home visit" means a voluntary, one-on-one visit between an eligible family and a representative of a local agency, either in the family home or at a mutually agreed upon public setting.

(4) "Local agency" means a governmental entity as defined in section 6-902, Idaho Code, or community-based organization participating in the program as provided for in this chapter.

(5) "Other primary caregiver" means foster parents, grandparents or other relatives serving as primary caregiver to an eligible child.

(6) "Parent" means the biological or adoptive mother or father.

(7) "Parent group meeting" means organized opportunities for parents to discuss information about parenting issues and early childhood development, where parents and other primary caregivers learn from and support each other, observe their children with other children and practice parenting skills.

(8) "Program" means the parents as teachers family support program provided for in this chapter.

(9) "Trust fund" means the Idaho children's trust fund board as provided for in chapter 60, title 39, Idaho Code, or the trust fund's contractor.

39-6804. VOLUNTARY PARENTS AS TEACHERS FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM – RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. (1) Trust fund. The trust fund is hereby directed to establish and oversee the parents as teachers family support program to be delivered by local agencies through grants awarded by the trust fund. The trust fund may contract with public or private nonprofit organizations, agencies, schools or with qualified individuals for the administration of the program, provided that the contract entered into by the trust fund shall contain a provision for the evaluation of services provided under the contract.

(2) Program specifications. The components of the program to be delivered by the local agencies shall include:

(a) Home visits conducted on at least a monthly basis, and more frequently for eligible families requiring more intensive services;

(b) Parent group meetings conducted on at least a monthly basis;

(c) Developmental and health screenings on at least an annual basis; and

(d) Linkages and referrals to community networks and resources.

(3) Award of grants.

(a) To qualify for a program grant, a local agency must submit an implementation plan to the trust fund that:

(i) Outlines the local agency's plan for delivering a program that will include the components set forth in subsection (2) of this section;

(ii) Describe how the local agency will collaborate with existing community organizations providing services to eligible families; and

(iii) Include an assessment of the community to be served by the local agency, describing the number of eligible families, the current early childhood home visiting programs in the community, gaps in available services and how the local agency's plan will address those gaps in services.

(b) The trust fund will review the implementation plans and award grants based on the merit of the implementation plans.

(4) Quality standards. The trust fund shall develop and adopt program quality standards to provide local agencies and parent educators clear guidelines for program implementation.

(5) Technical assistance and training. The trust fund may assist local agencies in providing program staff with ongoing training and technical assistance.

(6) Program outcomes. The trust fund shall have the authority to monitor local agencies to ensure compliance with the following program objectives:

(a) Enhanced school readiness;

(b) Increased parent and other primary caregiver understanding of child development and developmental milestones;

(c) Reduced incidence of child abuse and maltreatment;

(d) Identification of health and developmental delays through regular screening;

(e) Improved child health outcomes such as immunization rates; and

(f) Increased parental and other primary caregiver involvement in the child's education.

(7) Evaluation. Local agencies that have been awarded program grants shall, at a minimum, annually report to the trust fund the following information:

(a) The number of eligible families and children served in the program;

(b) The number of aggregate program visits and the average number of program visits per eligible family;

(c) Demographic information regarding eligible families participating in the program;

(d) The number of group meetings held;

(e) The average cost per eligible family served;

(f) The number of children screened and referred for additional evaluation; and

(g) The number of referrals to other community organizations and resources.

(8) Annual report. The trust fund shall submit an annual report to the legislature summarizing the information reported to it pursuant to subsection (7) of this section.

(9) Rules. The trust fund board may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 52, title 67, Idaho Code, to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

39-6805. PARENTS AS TEACHERS FAMILY SUPPORT FUND. (1) There is hereby created and established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "Parents as Teachers Family Support Fund," in which shall be deposited any moneys that the legislature may appropriate from the general fund and any additional grants, gifts, donations or other moneys designated for the program, including any federal funds that are or may become available to the program. The trust fund shall actively seek access to any additional grants, gifts, donations or other moneys, including federal funds, that would help fund the program. The state treasurer is authorized to invest all idle moneys in the fund and the interest earned on such investment shall be returned to the fund. All moneys deposited in the fund are hereby continuously appropriated for the purposes set forth in this chapter.

(2) The department of health and welfare, under the direction of the trust fund, shall be responsible for the management and accounting of moneys expended from the parents as teachers family support fund.

(3) Disbursement of moneys from the parents as teachers family support fund shall be upon the authorization of the trust fund or a duly authorized representative of the trust fund. Moneys in the parents as teachers family support fund shall be maintained independently from

1 the children's trust fund and shall not be subject to the provisions of section 39-6007, Idaho
2 Code.